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Letter dated 10 December 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a note verbale dated 9 November 2009 (18 Aban 1388) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the Embassy of Switzerland, Interests Section of the United States of America, in Tehran (see annex), concerning the unlawful act by the United States Navy against an Iranian commercial ship on the high seas.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 76 (a), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammad **Khazaee**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 10 December 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the Secretary-General

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Embassy of Switzerland — Interests Section of the United States of America — in Tehran and has the honour to state the following:

According to the information received from the relevant authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on 18 Mehr 1388 (10 October 2009), the Iranian container ship "Aba", navigating under the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was pursued by the American destroyer USS Pinckney (DDG 91) in the high seas on its way from Dalian, China, back to Bandar Abbas port, Iran. Meanwhile, a helicopter and a reconnaissance aircraft flew over the ship and filmed it and the crew on board. The destroyer stopped pursuing the container ship after the latter approached the Iranian waters where the naval forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran were present.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its strong protest to this unlawful act by the American navy, and given the repetition of such unlawful acts which are in violation of international law and endanger the maritime security, informs the United States government that it will be held responsible if such unlawful actions persist. The Islamic Republic of Iran reserves its right to take appropriate countermeasures against the United States' commercial vessels in the region.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration.

Embassy of Switzerland — Interests Section of the United States of America
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran